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NOTES.

READING WITHOUT ARTICULATION.

In a reference to my paper upon the above topic (this *Journal*, Jan., 1900, pp. 225 ff.), Mr. H. H. Bawden writes in his monograph, "A Study of Lapses" (*Psych. Rev.*, Supplement 14, April, 1900), as follows:

"We question the accuracy of the introspection in the case of the subject who is reported by W. B. Secor as not dependent upon the articulatory imagery in reading. There is no doubt that this author's conclusion is correct when he says that practice brings the visual imagery into greater prominence, but that it is possible to 'grasp the meaning of printed or written matter through the eye alone without the aid of articulatory images' is open to grave question. The probability is that the kinæsthetic imagery has changed from a gross to a finer type, say, from the grapho- or articulo-kinæsthetic to the imagery connected with the finer movements of the eye, but that it vanishes entirely is *a priori* improbable and *a posteriori* undemonstrated."

It seems clear that Mr. Bawden has here confused two different questions. We do not articulate with our eyes, and the sensations from eye-movement can therefore hardly be termed articulatory. Whether these sensations actually replace and stand for the articulatory sensations, and whether the presence of some kinæsthetic factor is indispensable to meaning, are questions which we did not touch upon.

Our point was this. In the case of the subject cited, neither introspection nor the Verdin laryngograph gave, under certain conditions, any evidence whatsoever of the presence of articulatory imagery. Thinking that introspection might be at fault, we tried to devise methods for its control (pp. 232 f.); and we were careful to say that the laryngograph has its limits (p. 233). Mr. Bawden's criticism, therefore, simply mentions one of the two sources of error (the uncertainty of introspection) to which we ourselves called attention, and, as it happens, the one which we think was ruled out by our procedure. What is now wanted is work with other subjects, and more especially a more delicate form of laryngograph.

W. B. SECOR.

EARLY MEMORIES.

I wish to call the attention of such psychologists as may not yet have seen it to President Hall's paper in the *Pedagogical Seminary* for December, 1899, entitled "Note on Early Memories." The article is one of extreme interest, and arouses a very flood of introspective reminiscence in the reader. It is also of great importance from the genetic standpoint, and should receive careful criticism and consideration from workers in the genetic field.

I mention here two passages only, which show a welcome sameness of result from the fields of genetic and of structural psychology. On p. 512 the author says: "The act of recall itself has, I think, in every case had a certain unique kind of pleasure attaching to it." This tallies well with the laboratory verdict: "Every recognitive experience is intrinsically pleasant," (my *Outline of Psychology*, 1899,

p. 275). Again, we read (p. 486) of "things that brought a distinct sense of familiarity, but no trace of anything like memory;" *cf.* the discussion following, and especially the wild-rose bush incident on p. 489. All this agrees admirably with the laboratory analyses of 'reduced' recognition or direct apprehension (*Outline*, p. 278), and of organic memory (*Ibid.*, p. 293).

The value of work of this kind can hardly be overestimated. It emphasizes the oneness of psychology, by whatever method we approach the problems of mind.

E. B. T.

FLUCTUATION OF TONES.

Mr. H. O. Cook found, in opposition to Dr. W. Heinrich, that liminal tonal stimuli show the intensive variations known as 'fluctuations of attention' (this *Journal*, October, 1899, pp. 119 ff.). Dr. Heinrich has just published a new investigation upon the subject (*De la constance de perception des tons purs à la limite d'audibilité*, in the *Bulletin international de l'academie des sciences de Cracovie*, Jan., 1900, pp. 37 ff.). He finds that pure tones (*i. e.*, tones free from all admixture of noise) do not fluctuate; the fluctuations in Mr. Cook's experiments were due to the presence of noises, "bruits à peine perceptibles."

Dr. Heinrich's result is surprising, in view of the introspective verdict that the tone, heard as tone, fluctuates. It must, however, be accepted as the last experimental work upon the subject. Meantime, we had ourselves planned (and have begun) a continuation of Mr. Cook's investigation, with purer tone sources. We shall return to the question as soon as a result, positive or negative, has been reached. It is needless to say that the issue is one of high theoretical importance.

E. B. T.

COMMUNICATION.

The following letter, written without thought of publication, is printed by the author's permission. It was the second addressed to the editor in response to a second urgent letter from him requesting a sitting with Mrs. Piper. It is printed here with the thought that it may interest and inform other psychologists who may seek interviews.

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 24, 1900.

Dear Dr. Hall:

In reply to your further letter of Feb. 23rd, I fear that my previous letter, perhaps owing to its brevity, did not sufficiently explain the situation as regards Mrs. Piper. I shall describe it in further detail as it purports to be from the point of view of the communicators through Mrs. Piper's trance.

In the attempt to get proof of personal identity from the Rev. W. Stainton Moses, who died in 1893, I came into relation with certain intelligences that claimed to have been the chief spirit instructors of Stainton Moses for some years during his life time, and whom he called by the names *Imperator*, *Doctor*, *Rector*, etc. Imperator was alleged to be the leader and general supervisor in connection with the super-normal experiences of Stainton Moses, accounts of which will be found in the Proceedings S. P. R., Parts XXV and XXVII. Imperator, communicating through Mrs. Piper's trance, very soon claimed and assumed the supervision of the trances. I definitely agreed to this supervision. For a number of years prior to this time I practically